

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

13. (Currently amended) A system for treating articles with heated compressed air comprising:

- a) conveyor for moving the articles;
- b) an air knife oriented to direct air at the moving articles;
- c) a motor;
- d) an air compressing device driven by a the motor;
- e) an air inlet to the air compressing device;
- f) an air delivery duct from the compressing device for providing air to the air knife at a pressure of from about 0.5 to about 10 pounds per square inch above ambient pressure;
- g) an air recirculation loop from the air delivery duct leading from the air delivery duct directly back to the air compressing device inlet so that no recirculated air contacts the motor; and
- h) a valve for controlling the portion of air flowing from the air compressing device toward the air delivery duct that recirculates back to the air inlet to the air compressing device for heating.

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein there is no enclosure separating the compressing device from the motor.

15. (New) The system of claim 13, wherein the air compressing device is a single stage centrifugal blower.

16. (New) The system of claim 13, wherein the valve is an adjustable valve.

17. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein the valve is a butterfly valve.